

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 3 and 18 without prejudice, and amend claims 1 and 19 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus for performing a process for searching for a file stored in a memory, the apparatus comprising:
 - file information obtaining means for obtaining predetermined information from the file;
 - right information obtaining means for obtaining right information indicating a user who can access the file;
 - index storing means for storing an index in which information obtained by the file information obtaining means is associated with right information obtained by the right information obtaining means;
 - keyword inputting means for accepting keyword input for searching for the file;
 - user specifying means for specifying a user who input the keyword;
 - search query generating means for generating a search query from a keyword input from the keyword inputting means and information indicating a user specified by the user specifying means; and
 - searching means for searching the index storing means for an index corresponding to a search query generated by the search query generating means,

wherein the memory has hierarchy structure and right information is set for each hierarchy, further wherein the right information obtaining means makes a synthesis of right information regarding a hierarchy higher than the hierarchy in which a file to be obtained is stored and right information regarding the file right information regarding the file.

2. (Original) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the user specifying means specifies a user by referring to a user ID and password input when the user logs in.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the right information obtaining means updates right information regarding a corresponding index stored in the index storing means when right information regarding the file is changed.

5. (Original) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising procedure storing means for storing procedures for obtaining information from the memory, wherein procedures stored in the procedure storing means are referred to in order to obtain predetermined information from the memory.

6. (Original) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the right information includes information for giving access rights to a group consisting of a plurality of users.

7. (Original) The information processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein if access rights for a file are given to a predetermined group, the index storing means stores information for specifying all users making up the group by associating this information with a corresponding index.

8. (Original) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the right information includes information for giving access rights to all users.

9. (Original) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the index storing means stores a plurality of indexes generated from a file store, being a set of files stored in one or more memories, as a group of indexes regarding the file store,

further wherein the searching means searches a corresponding group of indexes when information for specifying the file store is input from the keyword inputting means.

10. (Original) The information processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein when a plurality of file stores are searched, the searching means makes the sum of results obtained by searching each of the file stores objective search results.

11. (Original) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the index storing means stores a plurality of indexes generated from a plurality of file stores as a group of indexes regarding these file stores,

further wherein the searching means searches a corresponding group of indexes when information for specifying the file store is input from the keyword inputting means.

12. (Original) The information processing apparatus according to claim 11,

wherein the index storing means also stores information for specifying a corresponding file store by associating,

further wherein when information for specifying a predetermined file store is input from the keyword inputting means, the search query generating means generates a search query including information for specifying the file store,

further wherein the searching means searches a corresponding index by collating information stored in the index storing means for specifying a corresponding file store with information included in a search query for specifying a file store.

13. (Original) The information processing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the search query generating means makes the logical sum of a search query for each file store an objective search query when a plurality of file stores are searched.

14. (Original) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the index storing means gives predetermined right information to all indexes so that a particular user can search for all files.

15. (Original) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the search query generating means generates a search query not including the information indicating a user regarding a particular user.

16. (Original) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when a new index is generated, the index storing means stores an index access to which does not need to be limited with right information for permitting all users to access given.

17. (Original) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the index storing means gives a group of indexes access to which does not need to be limited an identification sign indicating to that effect,

further wherein when a group of indexes with the identification sign are searched, the search query generating means generates a search query not including the information indicating a user.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) A computer-readable record medium recording a computer program for performing a process for searching for a file stored in a memory, the program comprising the functions of:

file information obtaining means for obtaining predetermined information from the file;

right information obtaining means for obtaining right information indicating a user who can access the file;

index storing means for storing an index in which information obtained by the file information obtaining means is associated with right information obtained by the right information obtaining means;

keyword inputting means for accepting keyword input for searching for the file;

user specifying means for specifying a user who input the keyword;

search query generating means for generating a search query from a keyword input from the keyword inputting means and information indicating a user specified by the user specifying means; and

searching means for searching the index storing means for an index corresponding to a search query generated by the search query generating means,

wherein the memory has hierarchy structure and right information is set for each hierarchy, further wherein the right information obtaining means makes a synthesis of right information regarding a hierarchy higher than the hierarchy in which a file to be obtained is stored and right information regarding the file right information regarding the file.